

The Government Printing Office at Washington issues a report of the tests of metals and other materials for industrial purposes, made with the United States testing machine at the Watertown Arsenal during the year ending in the year that ended on June 30, 1895. This is a large volume of upward of 700 pages, containing many tables and diagrams and several photographic illustrations. It is a book calculated to satisfy every requirement in the matter of expert reference. Forty-six of the diagrams are reproductions of photographs which were taken once before the eye a very remarkable variety of particulars. A letter addressed to Gen. Flagler, Chief of Ordnance, by Major J. W. Reilly, commanding officer at the Watertown Arsenal, accompanies the report, and indicates briefly the nature of the work done, and gives the number of tests during the year was 2,365, of which 100 were of gun specimens, 221 of other matters relating to the Ordnance Department, 177 of matters submitted by other Government departments, 1,026 of a sort described as "investigation tests," and 841 "tests for private parties." The first part of the report contains steel boiler plate were tested, with material supplied by the American Boiler Manufacturing Association, the object of the tests being to determine the relative shearing strength of steel and iron rivets in single-riveted seams, and also the strength of some special multiple-riveted seams. The second part of the report describes a test conducted on the tracks of the Pennsylvania and of the Boston and Albany roads. In these the fibre stresses in rails of different weights from 60 to 100 pounds a yard, and loaded with heavy passenger and freight locomotives, were determined, also the effect of the weight of the wheels when loaded by the same locomotive, with rails on clender, gravel, and stone ballast; also the slope or inclination of the rail under the influence of the different wheels. Major Reilly says that much importance attaches to experiments of this kind, because they show the behavior of material in service, supplementing, and aiding the application of results obtained in the testing machine. The moments of resistance of the several sections of rails increased with their weight per yard, but the peculiar conditions of the track in particular cases more than counteracted the increase in weight, so that rigidity of the rails themselves. There were illustrations in which the lighter section showed lower fibre stresses than the heavier ones under the same wheels of the engine, showing the importance of obtaining uniform conditions of the track. The third part of the report describes the stress developed under the static conditions of these tests shows that rails are often strained more than material is supposed to be in the case of bridges or other permanent structures exposed to variable live loads. The tests also showed the relative effects of different kinds of ballast in the influence on the depression of the rails when loaded. The tests of building material, including stone, brick, and tiles, were continued from the previous years, and in addition to the ordinary compression tests of the material, shearing and transverse tests were made, also tests of the resistance to crushing and yielding of the mortar, building material was often exposed to shearing and transverse stresses, and it was believed that the resistance of the material in these directions should be considered as well as the crushing strength. It was shown that concrete loses its transverse strength rather rapidly after setting, and that the temperature from 32° to 512° Fahrenheit in the water baths used in the coefficient of expansion determinations. Higher temperatures were to be reached in a hot-air muffle, and it was expected that by this means it would be possible to define the progress of disintegration. Tests of the Douglas fir, or Oregon pine, were also continued, and experiments were made to determine the endurance of rotating shafts. The operations of the testing machine were directed by Mr. J. E. H. Johnson, chief care and skill are highly prized in making the tests. The direct cost of the experiments for the year amounted to \$10,934, of which \$934 was defrayed by private persons who submitted material for test.

A spirit of delicate address and gentlemanliness, less bitter and less marked than the pessimism of the last novel, pervades the latest of Miss Beatrice Harraden's stories, "Hilda Stratford" (Dodd, Mead & Co.). The scene is laid in southern California where Robert Stratford, a young English settler, has struggled hard to make a home for his girl who comes out to marry him. But her father, who is rich, and whose money he has made, is so ill that he cannot leave his bed, and severe illness has crippled his best abilities and left him weak and frail, and when the girl comes to her new life on the lonely farm ranch his greatest dread is that she may be disappointed and heartbroken. She comes, and, being by nature cheerful and sunny, she tries to cheer up her father, but he is unable to interest herself in her husband's work and prospects, and recognises that she has made a great mistake. "Looking back," she wondered why in the name of heaven she had ever come out to this distant place, and how she could have lived in a life which could never be congenial to her. There was nothing to stimulate—nothing in the circumstances of everyday life, nor in the scenery. With the exception of her husband, there was no one with whom to speak all through the liveliest day of the year. Then came the dullness and monotony of the life on the hillside above the hills above the ranch bursts and awakes as the result of years of patient labor. She finally breaks down and upbraids her husband for having brought her out to a life of which she is weary. Before she realized the awfulness and desolation of her life, she was stricken down with hard labor and anxiety, is stricken to the heart and dies, giving her the freedom she longs for. Interwoven with the thread of this simple story is the story of Ben Overleigh, the big and burly Irishman, who is a friend of Robert's, and a young and defenceless child, and his loyalty and devotion stand out, by contrast, from the gray sadness of the background. Miss Harraden's style is always neat and scholarly, and her plot contains some pleasant passages of description, like the over-changing aspect of the Californian hills, the deep red sand dunes, and the blue sky, the grey-leaved sage and foxtail.

such comes and the crude brown coloring is quickened into a luxuriance of green and carmine, and the whole is a study in the most curious and truly feminine mistake in one passage, wherein she makes Ben Overleigh go quail shooting with a rifle.

In " Tobias Smollett," the latest biography in the " Famous Scots Series " (Scriveners), Mr. Oliphant has written a most agreeable and up to the enthusiasm and sometimes injudicious fervor of a devoted admirer and loyal combatant. There is no lack of interesting material in the records of the life of the great literary humorist, and, in spite of his tendency to exaggerate, Oliphant has not been able to avoid the monotonous reiteration of the obvious fact that the author of " Peregrine Pickle " was a Scotchman. Mr. Smollett has produced a readable little volume. He is moved to a somewhat disproportionate degree of anger by the fact that the Scotchamptonshire of his ancestors is now to be ridiculed by the learned Smeltungus, but, with all his many good and noble qualities, the great Scotchman had certain peculiarities of temper and disposition that laid him open to attack. In his anxiety to present his hero in the most favorable light, Mr. Oliphant has not entirely escaped himself in an absurdity, as when he says, " Smollett has unjustly been characterized as bad-tempered, choleric, supercilious, and the like, simply because the key was lacking to his character. Far indeed from being any of these things, and in fact, on occasions, even directly contradictory passages, notwithstanding that Gordon added Smollett but by precept and purse during his years of study, the latter was in the habit of satirizing him behind his back in juvenile paeonulades. The same evil disposition, and the result, the feeling that the world had been deceived by him, was therefor justified by satire and sneers in ' taking it out ' of any one who might have relations with him, was present with him until a year or two of his death. Shortly before the great end came, his vitriolic acidulousness, as well as his egotism, were so great that he could be somewhat softened. And he can be little doubt but that the genial humorist must have been at times, like another and a later Scot, ' Gae ill to live with '.

Mr. Louis Lombard, the author of " Observations on the Character of William Neely," stands in the by no means unique position of the man whose good things have all been said before him. He discusses many matters that from earliest ages have engaged the attention alike of the priests and the philosopher, but he lacks the touch of native wit and humor and insight to subjects so familiar. " I would rather say what I think, though that be false," says he, " than be a human phonograph." And so he proceeds to say what he thinks upon such subjects as the relative morality of the savage and the civilized man, the advantages and disadvantages of matrimony, the higher education of women, and the conduct of life. He huris many scornful epithets at the head of the advanced woman, but a lack of humor renders his treatment ineffectual, and much that he says is not even original. He has some things more amusingly expressed by Juvenal some seventeen centuries ago. Miss Ella Wheeler Wilcox, in an appendix to the book, informs the world that Mr. Lombard is an educator, polygot, public speaker, conductor, violinist, composer, and a host of other things, and that he is, who, with much " elegance of manner," combines rare talent, knowledge, energy, executive ability and soul; while Dr. Max Nordau expresses his opinion that the book contains serene wisdom. There may be doubt as to the accuracy of these statements, but an author who publishes so gushing a panegyric on himself as is that of Miss Wilcox, can be not be none as to his bravery in putting forward Dr. Nordau's favorable opinion. In speaking of the serene wisdom of the book the author has had the good sense to say that he is in no way undoubtedly great writers, pays a high compliment to Mr. Lombard's sanity. But evidently his case presents to the practiced eye that of worthy physician none of the fatal stigmas of genius.

Mr. Baronet is lured by stratagem to a disreputable dive in Tooley's alley, a rialto of rogues and vagabonds in the heart of the most unsavory quarter of London. Here he is murdered by a bloodthirsty gentleman with a blackened face and a green coat with brass buttons. The author, who is a student of the sagacity of Sherlock Holmes with the elegance of a Chesterfield, sets out to bring the gaudily attired criminal to justice. He accents a mystery, and, naturally enough, he, after the manner of the phenomenon of detective fiction, satisfies himself as to the identity of the guilty man not later than in chapter two. In justice to the author, who expects something for his money, he keeps his information to himself, and proceeds to follow clues, interview witnesses, and chase supposititious gentlemen in green coats with brass buttons, and in some cases in red and odd pages. Those who like this kind of sensationalism, spiced with Cockney humor and served up in eliphased English, will find them all in " Tracked by a Tattoo " (Frederick Warne & Co.), by Mr. Fergus Hume, author of " The Mystery of a Hansard Club." The author has a kidnapped child, an eccentric nobleman who tattoos crosses on the arms of his many sweethearts, a lady who has " seen better days," and has become the 'queen of Tooley's alley, and last, but not least, the good old missing heir, who, when he is found, the author, is restored to his title and estates. Here is an extract that shows at once the author's subtle humor and the accuracy of his observation: " The features of this unknown woman were familiar to him; like the Americans say, ' like a picture to her mother.' "

In a volume entitled " Might Have Been " (Frederick A. Stokes), the Rev. Joseph Parker, D. D., publishes some " life notes " in which there is a queer blending of unctuous piety and mild facetiousness. " I have long desired to invent something," he says, " and now I have succeeded. I have invented and patented the dreamograph! This book will show how it works." Judging from the results before us we cannot say that the working is entirely satisfactory. By means of the dreamograph Dr. Parker has been able to ascertain whether or that in his opinion ought to have happened. He thus describes imaginary interviews with many persons who, in real life, have disagreed with him, and in some of these he, by sheer force of his own peculiar style of wit, succeeded in showing them in a closely maligned and unsatisfactory manner. To any one not particularly interested in denominational bickerings the book is apt to prove but tedious reading. It is difficult to sustain one's interest for any length of time in this sort of thing. I called on myself the other day to write a review of a book, and found it in the middle of a cold bath, looking cheerfully, though dubiously, for the Turkish bath sheet, which I sorrowfully discovered to have been taken away by my eldest boy to cover the roof of a rabbit hutch in the garden. I got up, and, as I was, I wrote a politics man may despair of the progress of mankind. * * * Says I to myself, more in a chatty than an academic way, ' Now, on the whole,' says I, ' where were you born, Governor? ' says I, ' the question is mean and frivolous, and I don't want to answer it.' " says I, ' mend it.' " Then said the other eye, ' Mend it yourself! " And so on for some three hundred pages, with occasional lapses into religious sentimentality.

If Mr. Fred Hart had never written a delightful tale of " The Old Time of the Camp " and the old gold-seeking days of '49, Mr. Lewis B. France's half dozen short stories published under the title of " Pine Valley " (Thomas Y. Crowell) would be entitled to very warm praise. As it is, his style and methods are so good, and his tales so closely modeled on those of the older writer as to make the comparison inevitable. Yet it is but fair to Mr. France to say that at least two of his stories are not unworthy of the hand that wrote " The Luck of Roaring Camp." There is atmosphere and a certain vigor in " His Hero " and " The Winter at the Gray Eagle Mine " and a pathos quite distinct from the tendency toward sentimentalism noticeable in one or two of the others.

In " The Literary Year Book for 1907 " Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. publish for the first time a list of the names of the authors of the best books of the year to all who are interested in the progress of literature. As a first attempt at the preparation of

is necessarily imperfect, and it is perhaps fairer to regard it more in the nature of an experiment than of a production. It is edited by Mr. F. O. Afolio, and contains, in addition to a series of articles on general subjects connected with literature, a directory of the English public libraries, of British authors and of publishers and booksellers; a short note on magazines and the general phenomenon of the magazine as to the leading magazines—the style and length of article they accept and the average remuneration, &c., together with portraits and short biographies of several English men and women of letters. The latter department is by far the least satisfactory part of the general scheme. The principle of selection by which the subjects were chosen is by no means clear, and the thing savors somewhat of advertisement, while the list is in no way a representative one. Both in these biographies and in the general review of the books of 1896, written by the reviewer, there is more than a suspicion of that tendency toward log rolling that becomes every day more marked among a certain set of the younger English writers. If we are to accept the estimate of Mr. Rhyu, the numerous newspapers produced in England in 1896 is indeed phenomenal. The gentleman's methods of criticism at times approach perilously near to the ridiculous, as, for example, when, in speaking of a volume of one of the minor poets, he tells us that "you can tear these pages and find the joy aloud in them." The volume, however, contains much useful information and is valuable as a book of reference, and it will doubtless be much enlarged and improved by next year. There should be an excellent opening for the enterprising publisher who would bring out a volume of this kind dealing with current literature.

Meers, Copeland & Day publish a handy little pocket volume of "Lyrica by John B. Tabb," containing a number of short poems, quatrains, and sonnets. In some of these the wide expanse of margin is out of all proportion to the length of the poem. The volume contains the volume of thought contained therein, but in others, such as "To the Wood-Robin" and "The Druid," there is that delicacy and beauty of thought and expression that mark the best of Father Tabb's verse; qualities that are seen in these two stanzas entitled "Gullies":

O Leap upon the highest bough
The Poet of the woods art thou
To whom alone is given—
The farthest from thy place of birth—
To consummate thy joy of earth,
Nor lose the sight of Heaven.

O Leap upon the topmost height
Amid thy heritage of light
Unsheltered by a shade,
'Tis thine the loneliness to know
That leads for sympathy below,
Nor needs what others need.

The story of the pioneers and of the first tide of emigration from the Atlantic States to the unknown world of the West is one of perennial interest, and in "Chronicles of a Kentucky Settlement" (Putnam), Mr. William Courtney Watts recalls some stirring adventures and warlike exploits of the early days. He recalls the hardships in the lives of the first settlers in Livingston county in the early years of the century. Working in the enforced quietude due to long and severe illness, he has spent many years in collecting and shaping these reminiscences, and the result is a volume that, aside to watch a scene of old-world and somewhat sentimental love-making. For such a reader the book will have a charm by reason of its unpretentiousness and its sincerity. It solves no problems, and it propounds no conclusions, but it tells a story of the hardy, fashionable age—end manner; but it gives a true picture of the life and times of a class of men and women who largely helped to lay the foundation of the present strength and prosperity of their country.

Elizabeth, the heroine of Miss Anna Farquhar's "A Singer's Story" (Roberts Brothers), at the earliest stage of her career developed an unusual voice, red hair, and a variable disposition; also abundant freckles. Later in life she loses the freckles and cultivates her voice, and, after a long and unhappy career, when she is in the Paris, becomes the greatest singer of her day. The story of her struggles and her triumphs, her one great temptation and her one brief glimpse of love, is told with considerable power, and in spite of some crudities of style and character drawing, it is a very happy ending. Miss Farquhar's book is a very pleasant one.

"Ulysses S. Grant and the Period of National Preservation and Reconstruction" (Putnam), by Col. William Conant Church, editor of the U. S. Army and Navy Journal, is the latest publication of the series of the "National" series, edited by Mr. Evelyn Abbott, M. A. "It is natural," says Col. Church, in his introduction, "to seek as the hero of each historic movement some man who, more than any other, represents the spirit of his time. However opinions may differ as to the exact nature of the military sense, of the men who led out troops to battle, few will dispute the fact that the chief representative of the Union army was Ulysses Simpson Grant." How it happened that Gen. Grant succeeded in the great game of war, it is the story of the book. His early life, his military, and education; his experiences as a soldier during the Mexican war from '43 to '48, and as a farmer and trader from '48 to '61, form the subject of interesting chapters, while his career during the civil war is traced from his first expedition, the capture of Vicksburg, July 4 and August, 1861, up to the collapse of the Confederacy and the mustering out in May, '65. The volume is illustrated with a number of portraits and views and contains twenty-five views.

The second volume of Messrs. Appleton's "History of the United States in the Nineteenth Century, Its Romances and Realities," edited by Mr. Frank Vincent, M. A. In this reading book the difficult task of combining matter that is entertaining with that which is merely instructive has been successfully accomplished, with the result that the book is a most desirable for the scholar is not only nutritious but palatable. Descriptive passages from many interesting works of travel are interspersed with extracts from the poets, and the volume is illustrated with some excellent photographs.

In the "Sixth Series" of the Colonial Book Company, Mr. Frederick W. Wendt has collected half a dozen pleasantly written trifles of the lightest kind, descriptive of some different phases of life on board an ocean liner.

We have reviewed Messrs. Putnam's handy little volume entitled "Lawns and Gardens; How to Plant and Beautify the Home Lot, the Pleasure Ground and Garden," by Mr. N. Jonsson-Ross. This work, which is profusely illustrated with plans and drawings by the author, gives much practical information on such subjects as the principles and practice of landscape art and the selection of the best hardy ornamental plants for the temperate zone of North America, with a full description of those most suitable, and chapters on planning, grading, the laying out of walks, drives, and so forth.

We have also received:

"Thomas Chalmers." W. Garden Blake. "Famous Scots Series." (Scribners.)

"The Earth for a Dollar." Roof Roofs. (Gay & Bird.)

"The Golden Shackles." Allen. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

"Mr. and Mrs. Hannibal Hawkins." Belle C. Greene. (American Publishers' Corporation.)

"Hoopen Hoopen." Harlan H. Ballard. (L. C. Page.)

"John Hopkins Morrison—A Memoir." (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

"National Progress During the Queen's Reign." Michael G. Mulhall. (Routledge.)

"Kings in Adversity." Edward & Van Zile. (F. T. & Co.)

"The Open Secret." By a priest. (Thomas Whittaker.)

"A Way That Remains Right." an example.

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Don of "Christian Science," H. Martin Hart, O. D. (John Fette & Co.)
"A Bachelor of Paris." John W. Harding, (Fennyson Neely).
"Two Strange Adventures." Kinahan Cornwallis, (Fennyson Neely).
Nansen and the Frozen North." John Black, Rouseledge & Son.
"Ruth Farmer." Agnes Marchbank, (Cassell Publishing Company.).
"The Up-to-Date Cyclopaedia," April, 1907, American Publishers Corporation).
"The Sacred Host of Jesus." Rev. Pierre Jean, S. J., translator from the French by Marie Clotilde Reardon, (H. L. Kluher & Co.)
"New American Supplement to the Encyclopedia Britannica," volumes 4 and 5, (The Vermer Company).

ANOTHER BIG LOBSTER DIES.
aquarium Folk Now Despair of Being Able to Keep Such Giants in Captivity.
The last of the three giant lobsters captured recently in the deep waters off Sandy Hook and placed in the Aquarium is dead. Like Fitzsimmons and Cabby, his thirty-pound predecessors, this most recent captive pined away in his shallow water of his tank, and last Wednesday morning he waved his left claw feebly a few times and gave up the ghost.
His death has demonstrated to the Aquarium authorities that the method of keeping such monstrous crustaceans in captivity. They are accustomed to living in deep water, and the consequent decrease of pressure when placed in the shallow tanks has invariably been fatal. In the fall and winter the large lobsters have lived six or seven months after their capture, but owing to the freshets in the spring the water used at the Aquarium is so much half fresh, and this is considered a factor in the early death of the big fellows.
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A recent analysis of some Brooklyn water has developed the presence of a noxious growth of vegetable matter. The discovery will probably cause the effect of heating the water, purifying the sources of supply on Long Island.

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TOMB,
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